Profits from Sudan oilfields

222. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th February, 2003 and state the details of profits earned from Sudan oilfields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL)'s share of oil production from the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP), Sudan is approximately 3 million tonnes per annum. The profit, however, depends upon the international oil price movements. From 12th March, 2003, the date of successfully closing the deal for acquisition of the 25% stake in the GNOP, till 31st March, 2003, the net profit earned by OVL from the Sudan project was about US $ 11.5 million (Rs. 54 crores, approx.)

ONGC's new retail outlets

223. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to ONGC to open 500 retail outlets in the country;

(b) if so, the break-up of the outlets proposed to be set up in various States of the country, State-wise; and

(c) by when these are going to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Government have given permission to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for setting up of 600 Retail Outlets (ROs) in May, 2002 and for 5000 retail outlets in May, 2003.

(b) The break-up of the outlets proposed to be set up in various States of the country, State-wise is as under:

Name of State	No. of ROs
Andhra pradesh	100
Tamil Nadu	10
Rajasthan	12
Uttaranchal	12

1	2
Maharashtra	346
Gujarat	100
Assam	10
Himachal Pradesh	10
Karnataka	380
Kerala	90
Goa	20
Pondicherry	10

(c) Since setting up of retail outlets is a continuous process, it is not possible to indicate a definite time frame.

Domestic production of LNG

224. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic production of LNG would negate the need for import of this gas by 2006-07;

(b) if so, whether Government are revising the demand-supply projections for natural gas; and

(c) whether the domestic production would provide some relief to the consumers by way of reduction in costs for home consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no domestic production of LNG. However, as against a demand of 120 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of gas, the supply is around 65 MMSCMD only and the gap is estimated to go up by 2006-07. To bridge this gap, one of option is to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). It is expected that only 2-3 LNG projects may come up by 2006-07, which will partially meet the demand supply gap.

(c) Most of the new discoveries of gas are from block awarded under NELP under which the producer can sell the gas at market determined prices.